

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



What a thriving tourist season we are having! On the heels of the Wall Street Journal declaring that it's our city's "Day in the Sun," we were named the "Best Beach Destination for your Money" by Money Magazine and a "Top Spring Break Destination for 2017" by Allianz Global Assistance. Visitors from all over the world are flocking to our city to enjoy great weather, sparkling beaches, and a vast array of entertainment and cultural amenities. Join us for the **Fort Lauderdale Air Show** on Sat., May 6 and Sun., May 7 (<http://fortlauderdaleairshow.com>) and the **Great American Beach Party** on Sat., May 27 (<http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/gabp>).

Healthiest City in Florida! Our commitment to health continues to pay off. Fort Lauderdale was recently named the Healthiest City in Florida! Experts at WalletHub compared 150 of the nation's largest cities on 34 metrics covering health care, food, fitness, and green space. We ranked as the #1 healthiest city in Florida and #12 nationwide! Number of family doctors and dentists per capita, average cost of a medical visit, healthy restaurant options, access to fitness programs, and quality of parks were main criteria. This recognition underscores our commitment to promoting healthy, active, lifestyles through recreational and leisure activities, which build community and enhance quality of life. The article is at <https://wallethub.com/edu/healthiest-cities/31072/>.

Big Plans for the Beach! We continue to seek ways to provide a more walkable, bikeable, and pedestrian-friendly beach experience. To advance this goal, we broke ground March 25 on the game-changing Las Olas Beach Park project. Our \$49 million investment will bring two new waterfront parks to the heart of our beach and change the face of the Las Olas corridor for generations. The project will create a unique and dynamic destination with more green space, inviting gathering places, a tree-lined promenade, pedestrian connections, and a modern parking facility. For details, please visit <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/lasolasbeachpark>.

April 29 - The Color Run – Join us Sat., April 29 at 7:30 AM at Huizenga Plaza, 32 E Las Olas, for the Happiest 5K on the Planet! Presented by Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, the Color Run is an un-timed 5K in which thousands of participants, or "Color Runners," are doused from head to toe in different colors at each kilometer. There are two rules: (1) Wear white at the starting line and (2) Finish plastered in color! The excitement continues with an unforgettable Color Run Finish Festival afterwards. For information: <http://www.goriverwalk.com>.

April 29 - Fourth Annual Fort Lauderdale Cares Day – Also on Sat., April 29, we will participate in a national day of service. From beach renourishing and graffiti clean-up to book exchanges and neighborhood beautification, there are numerous volunteer opportunities to get involved and help make a difference in our city. To find a project, please see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Home/Components/News/News/1334/16?backlist=%2f>.

➤ Speaking of service, it is with great sadness that I note **Mr. Terrell Becker** lost his battle with cancer on April 17. One of Poinciana Park's most active and tireless volunteers, Terry surely will be missed.

May 1 & 4 - Learn About the Vacation Rental Registration Process – The City is hosting two free Vacation Rental Registration and Inspection Compliance Workshops to assist vacation rental operators with the application and inspection processes. The dates are Mon., May 1 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM and Thurs., May 4 from 5:30 - 7 PM in the City Hall Commission Chambers, 100 N Andrews Avenue.

May 4 - Las Olas Boulevard Streetscape Improvements Project Public Meeting will be held from 6 - 7:30 PM at Broward College, 111 E Las Olas, Room 1110. The event flyer is at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/TAMevents>.

May 9 - Sixth Annual Transportation Summit – We have a vision of being a city with safe, livable, connected, and sustainable streets for people of all ages and abilities. To help advance this vision, please plan to join industry experts and transportation influencers at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on Tues., May 9 from 8:30 AM - 6 PM. Learn how technology, innovation, and increased transportation data are creating opportunities for street design, parking systems, transportation services, land use, safety improvements, current projects, and more. Register at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/TAMevents>.

May 13 - First Annual Orange & Blue Track & Field Invitational to benefit Stranahan High School – Sat., May 13, 10 AM – 6 PM, Orange Bowl Recreational Complex, 1450 W Sunrise Boulevard. Pre-registration is required: <http://www.splitsecondtiming.com>; 954-478-9117.

May 19 - Relay for Life Returns – The 2017 Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society is being hosted by the City in partnership with the cities of Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes, and North Lauderdale. This overnight event will take place at Joseph C Carter Park, 1450 W Sunrise Boulevard, beginning at 6 PM on Fri., May 19 and ending at 6 AM on Sat., May 20. See <http://www.relayforlife.org/carterparkfl>.

FYI – The City's **2016 Water Quality Report** is now available online at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/wqr>.

➤ My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 4 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting or sign up to receive this newsletter and other information about what's going on in the City, contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.